

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6373

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 18109

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO, GW

SUBJECT: MBFR: DISCUSSIONS OF ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE WITH  
FRG ON AIR MANPOWER, PHASING

1. AIR MANPOWER. DURING MEETINGS IN BONN BETWEEN ACDA DIRECTOR IKLE AND FRG OFFICIALS, FRG MBFR EXPERT RUTH EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED BEFORE END OF ROUND 4 (DEC. 12) ON QUESTION OF BROACHING TO EAST INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN COMMON CEILING. HOWEVER, RUTH DREW STRONG DISTINCTION BETWEEN NO-INCREASE COMMITMENT AND INCLUSION AIR MANPOWER IN COMMON CEILING, ON THE ONE HAND, AND REDUCTIONS IN AIR MANPOWER ON THE OTHER. THE LAST POSSIBILITY, REDUCTIONS, RUTH RULED OUT OF THE QUESTION FOR FRG, AND INQUIRED WHAT WAS U.S. VIEW OF MANPOWER REDUCTIONS IN WAKE OF FIRST TWO STEPS. IKLE STATED THAT WE UNDERSTAND GERMAN CONCERNS ABOUT AIR MANPOWER REDUCTIONS, AND EMPHASIZED THAT WE BELIEVE THIS QUESTION CAN BE SUCCESSFULLY SEPARATED FROM THE OTHERS, NOT ONLY INTELLECTUALLY BUT TACTICALLY AS WELL.

2. PHASING. RUTH INQUIRED WHETHER US HAD ANY REACTION TO BRITISH PAPER ON FURTHER WORK FOR MBFR. HE REFERRED AT LENGTH TO THE HISTORY OF THE PHASING CONCEPT, AND

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NOTED THAT U.S. ATTITUDE ON THIS QUESTION WOULD BE

DECISIVE IN THE ALLIANCE. RUTH NOTED THAT LINKING TWO PHASES TOGETHER WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO NEGOTIATE. HOWEVER HE THOUGHT THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF DISCUSSING MORE DETAILS IN PHASE I OF THE LINKAGE BETWEEN PHASES, BEING MORE CONCRETE ABOUT EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS, WAS AN INTERESTING ONE AND MIGHT HELP ACHIEVE AGREEMENT TO THE COMMON CEILING CONCEPT. THIS ALL PRESUPPOSES PLAYING THE OPTION III CARD. RUTH INQUIRED WHAT IS U.S. INTEREST IN HAVING A SEPARATE ADVANCED PHASE. IKLE NOTED THAT CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO REDUCTIONS THAT DID NOT SHIFT THE RELATIVE DEFENSE BURDEN OF THE ALLIANCE WOULD NOT BE FAVORABLE AND EMPHASIZED THAT OUR REAL INTEREST ON THE EASTERN SIDE WAS IN SOVIET REDUCTIONS. COLONEL TANDECKI, MOD MBFR HEAD, INQUIRED IN "A SPECULATIVE VEIN" HOW IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO GET A FIRST STAGE AGREEMENT WITHOUT SPECIFYING DETAILS OF PHASE II. RUTH ASKED FURTHER QUESTION WHETHER NEGATIVE CONGRESSIONAL REACTION TO WHICH IKLE REFERRED WOULD APPLY EVEN IF ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION OF REDUCTIONS WERE APPROPRIATELY PHASED, AND RECEIVED REPLY THAT IT WOULD BE THE OVERALL NUMBERS THAT MATTER, NOT THE TIMING OF IMPLEMENTATION.

3. IN AN EARLIER PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH IKLE, MFA DISARMAMENT HEAD ROTH CLAIMED THAT FRG IS CONSIDERING ALTERNATIVES FOR MBFR THAT WOULD BRING EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS INTO A SINGLE-STAGE MBFR. ONE VERSION, WHICH MIGHT GO WITH OPTION III, IS THAT SOME REDUCTIONS "FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS" WOULD BE ADDED TO US-SOVIET REDUCTIONS

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S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 18109

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OF THE KIND NOW ENVISAGED FOR PHASE I, WITH OF COURSE NO SUB-CEILINGS. IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHETHER THIS WOULD BE A STAGE BETWEEN PHASE I AND II THAT MIGHT INCLUDE ADDITIONAL U.S. AND SOVIET REDUCTIONS, OR WHETHER IT WOULD JUST BE BRINGING EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS INTO A SINGLE PHASE I. THE COMMON CEILING OBJECTIVE WOULD BE DEFERRED TO THE FUTURE BUT NOT GIVEN UP.

4. A SECOND VARIANT MENTIONED BY ROTH PRIVATELY TO IKLE WOULD BE SIMPLY A SINGLE PHASE FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS, WHICH MIGHT BE A POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE IN CASE OPTION III IS NOT OFFERED. ROTH HINTED AT 20,000-MAN REDUCTIONS FOR WEST AND 30-35,000 MEN FOR EAST.

5. ROTH ADDED THAT CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT MIGHT WISH TO DISCUSS SUCH IDEAS DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

6. COMMENT: WE ARE NOT SURE AT THIS STAGE HOW MUCH WEIGHT SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ROTH'S COMMENTS REGARDING SINGLE STAGE EUROPEAN REDUCTIONS. WE NOTE A CERTAIN PARALLELISM BETWEEN THE VIEWS EXPRESSED BY COL. TANDECKI OF FMOD AT THE AFTERNOON MEETING AND AMB. ROTH'S PRIVATE COMMENTS TO DR. IKLE. WE DECIDED IT  
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WAS BEST NOT TO PROBE GERMAN THINKING FURTHER ON THIS POINT TO AVOID LEADING THE FRG TO BELIEVE THAT THE USG MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION. END COMMENT.  
HILLENBRAND

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